

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCSE-00 PPTE-00 VOE-00 L-03

PER-05 MMS-03 SY-10 /029 W

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R 011933Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7647

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01541

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR WORKLOAD AND MANPOWER

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: LONDON, ENGLAND

REF: A-165 OF JAN 9, 1974

1. SCHEDULES I THROUGH IV AND VI INCLUDED IN SEPTTEL.
2. SCHEDULE V - REMARKS AND JUSTIFICATION
 - A. ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN AN INTERPRETER IS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH A VISA APPLICATION INTERVIEW, SOME MEMBER OF THE STAFF IS USUALLY FOUND WHO CAN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE. THIS PROBLEM DOES NOT REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT WORKLOAD FACTOR. AVERAGE TIME REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEW WITHOUT INTERPRETER IS TEN MINUTES FOR EITHER IV OR NIV CASE.
 - B. APPROXIMATELY SIX PER CENT OF NIV APPLICANTS NEED TO BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE VISA ELIGIBILITY.
 - C. TOTAL LOCAL CLEARANCES DONE BY INS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS CASES DURING CY 1973 WAS 3,125.
 - D. CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:
 - VISAS - 850 - APPROX 180 MAN-HOURS
 - SCS - 180 - APPROX 180 MAN-HOURS

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TOTALS - 1,030 - 360

NOTE: VISA CONGRESSIONALS ARE TELEGRAPHIC AND MORE ROUTINE WHILE SCS REPLIES ARE TYPED LETTERS ON A VARIETY OF USUALLY COMPLEX CASES.

E. PAID OVERTIME WORKED DURING FIRST HALF OF FY 1974:

- (1) AMERICANS - 29 HOURS - \$315.12
- (2) LOCALS - 91 HOURS - \$476.81

F. IN GENERAL, WE ARE UNABLE AT PRESENT TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS ON CONSULAR WORKLOAD AT LONDON. THE U. S. TRAVEL SERVICE STILL EXPECTS APPROXIMATELY 500,000 UK VISITORS TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. THIS YEAR. UK CONSTITUENT POSTS ARE EXPERIENCING THE SAME STEADY INCREASE IN NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATIONS AS LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, LONDON HAS REACHED, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT TIME, A PLATEAU AND ITS JANUARY 1974 REPORT WILL SHOW NIV ISSUANCE ABOUT 1,000 BELOW JANUARY 1973. LONDON'S DISTRICT IS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE CONSTITUENT POSTS IN THAT LONDON HAS THE HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED MIDLANDS AREA WHICH HAS SUFFERED MORE THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT BRITISH LABOR DISPUTES AND THE CONSEQUENT 3-DAY WORK WEEK RESULTING IN REDUCED PAY ENVELOPES. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE REDUCED, IN TURN, EXPENDITURE ON HOLIDAYS BY THE LOWER PAID WORKERS (BELIEVED LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMER SHARP INCREASE IN POPULARITY OF CHEAP CHARTER FLIGHTS ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC), AND CONSEQUENTLY A LEVELLING-OFF OF NIV APPLICATIONS. THIS AND THE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7648

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POSSIBLE PROSPECT OF A COAL MINER'S STRIKE, WHICH COULD CRIPPLE INDUSTRY AND RESULT IN FURTHER UNEMPLOYMENT, HAS LED US TO ESTIMATE A 4 PER CENT INCREASE, INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED 30 PER CENT, FOR THE BALANCE OF FY 1974. ONCE BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL CRISIS IS OVER, WE EXPECT NIV ISSUANCE TO BOUNCE BACK TO ITS "NORMAL" EVER-INCREASING RATE CULMINATING IN A TRAVEL EXPLOSION BOTH WAYS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE U.S. IN BICENTENNIAL 1976.

9. THE BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY REPORTED A MONTHLY AVERAGE DECREASE OF 6 PER CENT IN U. S. VISITORS FOR JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 1973 WHICH DOUBTLESS ACCOUNTED FOR A SLIGHT REDUCTION IN SERVICES DURING THE FIRST HALF OF FY 74. FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER, HOWEVER, SHOWED A 5 PER CENT INCREASE AND AS A RISING TREND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SECOND HALF OF FY 74, WE BELIEVE IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT A 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES AS PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. THE HIGH ESTIMATE FIGURE FOR SERVICES TO OTHER AGENCIES DURING THE SECOND HALF OF FY 74 INCLUDES PROCESSING OF 8,000 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

H. IN SUMMARY, WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF SOME OF THE ADDITIONAL CONSULAR PERSONNEL REQUESTED
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EARLIER (STATE 7307 OF JAN 12, 1974), WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE CURRENT LEVEL OF WORKLOAD.

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